

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4 and 19 were amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 19 were objected to for informalities. In light of the above amendments, Applicant submits the objectionable matter has been addressed. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Hoffmann* (US App 2002/0054586). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hoffmann* (US App 2002/0054586). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly requested.

Specifically, *Hoffmann* does not teach "passing on signaling messages, arriving at one of the line units for switching of the data packets, to another of the line units with the aid of internal signaling messages defined for the signaling unit." as recited in claims 1, 2, and 17-19.

To clarify, the present claims recite a signaling unit, having at least two line units. The line units can be connected to one another inside the signaling unit and can set up a connection for transmitting user data. The first line unit that receives the signaling data for the data transmission converts the arriving external signaling message (e.g. a DSS1 message protocol) into a signaling message of the signaling unit's internal signaling protocol. This internal signaling message is transferred to suitable second line unit within the signaling unit. This line unit includes the central processor of the signaling unit according to the data transmitted within the arriving external signaling message. Thus, a connection is built between the first line unit to a second line unit which can convert the internal signaling messages into signaling messages of the DSS1 protocol, ISUP protocol, etc. for the further transmission in the data network. The line unit converting the internal signaling protocol into the ISUP protocol also comprises an IP control unit which does the signaling according to a signaling protocol for packet-oriented transmission (e.g Ethernet, H.323, SIP, etc) for the further transmission of the data.

Accordingly, one signaling unit is needed that utilizes the unit's internal signaling protocol. This internal signaling protocol is the interface between the different line units of the signaling unit. The line units are used to do the conversion of a respective external signaling

protocol into the internal signaling protocol and vice versa. The internal signaling protocol can be used for user data transmission between line units using the same external signaling protocol as well as between line units using different external signaling protocols.

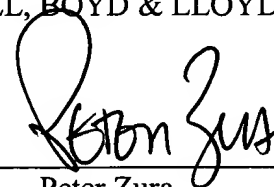
In contrast, *Hoffmann* teaches a method that uses different units, such as exchanges, transit exchanges, interworking units, etc., to transmit voice data in a telephone network and the Internet. The voice data is transmitted from a telephone network through an IP bearer that includes two exchanges which communicate via interworking units (Fig. 1, [0028, 0032, 0042 and 0046]) with each other and then to the telephone network. The interworking units which do the conversion of voice data into data packets and vice versa are not within the exchanges, but placed somewhere in the communication network. The interworking units are also linked to Internet and do the "Voice over IP" transmission. *Hoffmann* uses specific interworking units to do the connections between the circuit-switched telephone network and the packet oriented Internet and so the signaling is done between different units of the communication network.

Accordingly, Applicant submits the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is improper and should be withdrawn. As claim 7 depends from claim 1, it is also submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is also improper and should be withdrawn. In light of the above remarks, Applicant submit that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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